

NEWS

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Atlantic City Businessman Sentenced For
Paying Bribes to Atlantic City Councilmen

(More)

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CAMDEN – An Atlantic City businessman was sentenced today to three years of probation, which includes nine months of home confinement with electronic monitoring, for paying bribes to two Atlantic City councilmen, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez also ordered Edward DiNicolantonio, 71, of Atlantic City, to pay a \$5000 fine. In sentencing DiNicolantonio, Judge Rodriguez granted the government's motion for a downward departure due to the defendant's cooperation, which included providing historical information and actively introducing undercover FBI agents to subjects of the investigation, including a corrupt public official. Judge Rodriguez also said he considered the defendant's advanced age and health issues in formulating the sentence.

DiNicolantonio pleaded guilty before Judge Rodriguez on May 1, 2007, to a one-count Information that charged him with giving corrupt payments to public officials in Atlantic City.

At his plea hearing, DiNicolantonio admitted bribing certain Atlantic City Council members in exchange for preferential treatment on city contracts and other business opportunities. DiNicolantonio admitted that from 2002 until 2006 he made corrupt cash payments totaling in excess of \$45,000 to Atlantic City councilmen Craig Callaway, 48, and Gibb Jones, 81, in return for their support for various matters occurring before the city council.

DiNicolantonio stated that he was employed as a consultant to an insurance company that was interested in providing risk management and other insurance services to Atlantic City in 2002 and 2003. DiNicolantonio admitted that he met with Callaway and offered him money in return for his support for awarding the risk management contract to the insurance company.

Furthermore, DiNicolantonio admitted that he gave Jones cash payments and paid various expenses on Jones' behalf before and after soliciting Jones for the insurance contract and other matters before council.

DiNicolantonio admitted that in late 2003 and early 2004, he offered to make corrupt payments to Callaway in return for Callaway's support for a developer who had hired DiNicolantonio as a consultant for the Garwood Mills project. In 2004 and 2005 DiNicolantonio made cash payments to Callaway in return for his support in connection with the development of the Garwood Mills site, DiNicolantonio admitted.

In determining the sentence, Judge Rodriguez consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the

severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines and has wide discretion in determining a sentence.

Christie credited Special Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, in Newark, with the investigation into Atlantic City corruption.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Thomas J. Eicher and Judith H. Germano, both of the U.S. Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Division in Newark.

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Defense Counsel: Edward J. Crisonino, Esq. Haddon Township